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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,220	02/14/2001	Hideki Akiyama	24526	9695

20529 7590 05/13/2005

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/782,220	Applicant(s) AKIYAMA, HIDEKI	
	Examiner Thierry L Pham	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 12/17/04.
- Claims 1-2 are pending in application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art, and in view of Lee et al (U.S. 6362892).

Regarding claims 1-2, applicant admitted the prior art teaches a printer driver (fig. 1), provided at a host computer (host computer, page 2, lines 1-20) while said host computer is connected to a stencil printer (stencil printer, page 2, lines 1-20) printing machine through communications (communication between host computer and stencil printer, page 2, lines 1-20), for setting items of various conditions for said stencil printing machine, wherein the various setting items (setting items, page 2, lines 2-5) for said printing conditions are displayed (fig. 1); a watermark (watermark settings, fig. 1) print item is selected on the setting items; and information on the items are transmitted, together with the print data (watermark settings and print data are transmitted to stencil printer, page 2, lines 2-20), to the stencil printing machine (applicant admitted the prior art teaches a stencil printer having "secret operation settings button" as show in fig. 1, page 2, lines 1-20).

However, applicant's admitted prior art does not teach printer's features such as "secret operation settings" can be incorporated into the printer driver, which allows operator to control printer's features via from a host computer.

Lee, in the same field of endeavor for printer driver, teaches a method for incorporating the printer's features/capabilities into the printer driver, which allows operator to control

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printer's features via a host computer (printer driver which incorporated in the host computer for controlling features/capabilities of the printer, figs. 2-7, col. 1, lines 34-50 and cols. 4-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify applicant's admitted prior art ("secret operation features") as per teachings of Lee by incorporating "secret operation features" onto printer driver because of a following reason: (●) to allow operators/users to control printer's capabilities/features of the printer remotely; therefore, reduces operating costs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine applicant's admitted prior art with Lee to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1-2.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/17/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- Regarding claims 1-2, the applicant argued the cited prior art of record (6362892 to Lee et al) fails to teach and/or suggest a printer driver includes a "secret keeping operation".

In response, the examiner asserts the combination between applicant admitted prior art and Lee's reference is proper. According to the applicant admitted prior art, it teaches the following:

"FIG. 1 shows a printer driver setting screen. As shown in FIG. 1, some printer drivers are capable of selecting setting items for watermark print to print a secret document and the like. With this structure, if a user operates and uses the stencil printing machine nearby, the user can select a secret button after printing is finished and promptly move to a secret operation. However, if the remote host computer executes printing having secret and a secret operation setting is not made by the printer driver of the host computer, then a used stencil sheet is left attached to a print drum and the secret of the stencil sheet cannot disadvantageously kept. In such a case, a person who executes printing (or host computer user) has to go to the stencil printing machine and operate a secret button provided on the machine to execute the secret operation so as to keep the secret after printing", page 2, lines 1-20 of the originally filed specification.

Clearly, applicant admitted prior art teaches there exists a stencil printer having a secret operation setting button, and a printer driver stored on a host computer for driving such printer. Applicant indicated that an operator must physically go to the stencil printer to set a secret

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operation-setting button so as to keep the secret after printing. Lee teaches the entire printer's features can be controlled via a printer driver as shown in figs. 3-9, for example, an operator can choose to cancel his print job anytime via printer driver interface, col. 5, lines 45-50, rather than having to travel to the printer to cancel his print job [cancel button provided by the printer is known in the art]. As per teachings of Lee, it would be obvious to transfer the "secret operation-setting button on a stencil printer" feature onto a printer driver that allows operator to control such feature via remotely. By doing so, it is not only reduce time consumption and personnel costs, but also increasing system's efficiency.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US 6181436 to Kurachi, teaches a printer driver including a "secret operation settings" keep the contents of print data secret (col. 5, lines 5-10, col. 12, lines 25-32, col. 13, lines 45-62, col. 16, lines 32-38, col. 17, lines 5-32).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

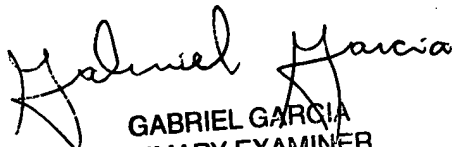
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (571) 2727439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER